

WSFEE 2016-17 Annual Report

Dear District 101 Community,

For over 25 years, the WSFEE mission has been to enhance the education of D101 students by raising and distributing funds to select programs, projects and products, proposed via grants from teachers, administrators and parents. As the school year comes to a close, the WSFEE Board is excited to share highlights from the 2016-2017 year.

In 2016 the Board voted to approve partnering with the District to accelerate the transformation of instructional practices in the classroom by funding 50% of the cost of implementing the first three years of the Discovery Education: Digital Leadership Corps in every D101 school. Without a grant from WSFEE, the earliest D101 could implement a program of this scope would have been is at least two years from now.

The 5-year Discovery professional development program kicked off this fall with the training of select teachers within each D101 school. Next year, the program will organically and systematically expand to all teachers. The program will build the capability of our teaching staff through professional coaching, rich digital tools, and standards-based content. The program is designed to accelerate the shift of how D101 teachers teach to improve student ownership of learning.

Another initiative for WSFEE this year was our marketing campaign, "What's Your BIG Idea?". Through short videos, we showcased some of the amazing ideas for WSFEE grants that have come from people like you -- parents and teachers in our community. This year we funded 17 grants totalling more than \$50,000. Did you know that students can submit a WSFEE grant request, too? If you or your kids have a BIG idea, we encourage you to speak with a board member or your school principal or the WSFEE Website to learn more about the grant process and how to turn your big idea into a reality in the 2017-2018 school year!

Finally, we wish to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, donors, and guests who supported the 2017 WSFEE Golf & Tennis Outing. It was a fabulous day at LaGrange Country Club, and thanks to your generosity, we raised close to \$28,544.36 for the direct benefit of D101 students.

Gratefully Yours,
The 2016-17 WSFEE Board of Directors

David Albright, Laidlaw & McClure
Christine Campbell, Field Park & McClure
Whitney Carlisle, Laidlaw
Michael Chen, Forest Hills
Marleen Coglianese, Laidlaw
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John Svelnis, Forest Hills
Amy Tilles, Forest Hills
Tim Tomasik, Field Park
Joanna Zieba, Forest Hills
Sarah Coffey, D101 Liaison

Our Mission

Founded in 1992, the mission of WSFEE is to distribute funds for innovative and educational programs that enhance the quality and depth of education for District 101 children. Grants, which are submitted by teachers, administrators, and parents, support every aspect of education including science, technology, literacy, the arts, social studies, and physical education.

Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence

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2016-17 Grant Highlights

This past year the WSFEE had the opportunity to invest more than \$50,341.00 across 17 grants, as well as disbursed \$65,700 for the first installment of Discovery Education payments. A few highlighted grants are outlined below:

D101 STEAM Night

WSFEE funded all of the materials and activities for the inaugural District-wide STEAM night in March. More than 450 people attended this educational and fun night where students had the chance to play with snap circuits, dig for fossils, make Treasure Glass Putty, build and program LEGO robots--all at no charge to parents.

Chicago History Museum & Trolley Tour

All District third graders benefited from this exciting grant, which allowed them to visit the Chicago History Museum and then do a customized trolley tour -- free for parents! Third graders study Chicago history so they loved seeing some historical sites they'd learned about, come to life.

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles Push and Pull

District Kindergarten teachers asked for this science learning lab which will introduce K students to concepts such as gravity, forces in motion, and friction. Students will be engaged in using items that they are familiar with --trains, paper planes, and toy cars--and learn some basic physics concepts!

Polar Wrist-Band Heart Rate Monitors

McClure students will benefit from this grant, which provides them with Polar A360 Fitness Trackers and the Polar Go-Fit web service. Students can monitor their heart rate during PE class, and also track their fitness performance through Bluetooth technology.

Supplemental books for National Board candidates

Nineteen District 101 faculty members are in the process of earning National Board Certification. That group of teachers asked WSFEE to fund copies of the book "Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14". This book is recognized as an essential tool for understanding the developmental needs of students, and will assist the National Board group in achieving their certification.

Submit a Grant

Giving our children that extra edge they need to succeed is something we can all do together. Turn your great idea into a grant to enable it to come to life. Contact any WSFEE board member to learn more or simply complete a grant application at www.wsfee.org.

Volunteer Positions

WSFEE is run by parent volunteers from across D101 schools. If you're interested in helping to enhance the education of D101 students, either as a board member or a volunteer on one of our many committees, please contact any board member. It's a fun way to make a big impact on D101 students.

Dinner Dance

Save the date for April 28, 2018 for the WSFEE Dinner Dance & Silent Auction, to be held at Drury Lane. Some exciting changes are planned! Watch the WSFEE website for more information on the date, location, and sponsorship opportunities.

Did you know?

WSFEE funds grants that enhance the core curriculum areas (e.g. reading, writing, math, science, etc.) as well as building broader life skills.